

**Pathological basis of renal disease.** 2nd ed. By M S Dunnill. (pp 568. Illustrated. £29.50). London: Baillière Tindall, 1984.

This is the second edition of a useful book originally published in 1976. It has grown by four chapters and almost a hundred pages though much of the text is unchanged from the previous edition. Its contents range widely but, as might be anticipated, several chapters are concerned with the detailed pathology of glomerulonephritis. The main clinical features of glomerular disease are presented, and the recently introduced WHO histological classification is given with some valuable accompanying explanation.

A chapter is devoted to renal involvement in liver disease, a subject of increasing interest often omitted in other texts. There are chapters dealing with topics such as the kidney in pregnancy, amyloid disease, tropical renal disease and renal complications in narcotic addicts. A section is now included on renal tumours — a defect in the previous edition. Separate chapters have been added on stone disease, tubular disorders and the various types of cystic lesion found in the kidney. It is a pity that the section on renal transplantation was not modernised to include some of the interesting work which has followed the development of monoclonal antibodies as well as the controversial discussion on the value of aspiration cystology.

The good quality illustrations are of light and immunohistological preparations with many electron micrographs — all integral parts of modern renal pathological analysis.

This readable book is an asset to any renal pathologist and to a pathology department library where it would be valuable to general pathologists and those in training. It should also be consulted by clinicians who are interested in the pathological aspects of the renal diseases they are seeking to investigate.

CMH

**Inflammatory disorders of muscle.** Edited by Barbara M Ansell. (pp 216. Illustrated. £12.50). London: Saunders, 1984. (Clinics in rheumatic diseases, vol 10, no 1).

This volume of this now well-established review series in rheumatology is a notable contribution to the better understanding of non-suppurative muscle disease. As usual, in this series, the contributors are well-known international authorities who approach the clinical, immunological, virological, genetic and diagnostic features in a critical and stimulating fashion, thus contributing towards a better understanding of pathogenesis. The review of treatment and management is practical and critical. The illustrations are, without exception, beautifully reproduced.

This is an outstanding review of the subject and will have a wide appeal, including as it does an up-to-date bibliography of major references. It is a book to be studied rather than read. The critical editorship of Dr Ansell is evident in the presentation and style which, for a multi-author publication, is remarkably uniform throughout. I can fully recommend this number of the *Clinics* as excellent value at the price.

MWJB

**Ovulation and its disorders.** Edited by W Thompson, R F Harrison and J Bonnar. (pp 185. £29.95). Lancaster: MTP, 1984. (Studies in fertility and sterility).

This book contains 33 abstracts of papers presented at the XIth World Congress of Fertility and Sterility in Dublin in 1983.

There are sections devoted to monitoring of ovulation and evaluating the function of the corpus luteum with emphasis on ultrasonography to study follicle growth and the use of serum and salivary progesterone to assess the luteal phase.

The sections on prolactin secretion and treatment of ovulation dysfunction contain little of value to the undergraduate or postgraduate student. Indeed, this book will be of interest only to those involved in active research into infertility and gynaecological endocrinology.

Its major drawback is that the papers are presented in abstract form only and thus such details that may normally be included in 'Patients and materials' are lacking. Also, as with most large conferences today because of financial constraints the only way to attract a sufficient number of participants is to accept — without editorial review — all submitted abstracts, the quality of work reported in this expensive book is inevitably variable.

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